Code was made when the Indian Penal Code was in force here. According to the Travancore Penal Code, the Section ought to be 226. Again in Sections 59 and 60 the word 'Memorandum' has to be substituted for the word 'copy' consistently with the amendments proposed in Sections 46 and 47.

For these reasons, I beg to oppose the motion for referring to a Select Committee the Bill as it stands. I beg, Sir, to urge upon the Council the necessity for requesting the learned Mover to withdraw this Bill and introduce a new and improved one, to amend the whole Registration Regulation (I of 1070).

Mr. Raman Tampi.—After what my friend, Mr. Udaya Varma Raja, has said, I beg to second his motion, namely, that the Bill as at present drafted be withdrawn and that a new Bill embodying all the necessary changes, be re-introduced. It is a rule of practice, at any rate, observed by all legislative bodies, that whenever any important piece of legislation has been in force for about a decade, instead of amending it piecemeal, the whole enactment should be re-cast and modified.

The question was then discussed, after which Mr. Ananda Rao said:— Sir, the general view of the Council appears to be for re-enacting the Regulation with all the modifications that may be found necessary. I therefore beg for permission to withdraw the present Bill.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE ARMS BILL.

Mr. Kesava Pillai.—In accordance with the permission already granted by the Council on the 5th October last, a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to arms, has been framed and published in the Gazette; and notice of its introduction has been given to the members. The existing Arms Regulation III of 1061, as amended by Regulation I of 1069, controls only the manufacture, export and import of Arms, Ammunition and Military Stores and does not place any restriction on the possession and use of Arms. But the law in force in British India, namely, Act 11 of 1878, restricts the possession and use of Arms; and it is proposed to amend our law, so as to introduce similar restrictions here. I have already explained in the statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill, the grounds for the change proposed; and the points of difference between the British Act and the proposed Bill, are also noted in that statement. I would not waste the time of the Council by reiterating what has been already said. Suffice it to say, that by confining the applicability of the proposed law to fire-arms, bayonets and cannon, and by allowing the people to freely use other weapons, the rigour of the measure has been considerably reduced, as compared with what it is in British India.

It will also be seen that Section 24 of the Bill enables Government to exempt any person or classes of persons, or to exclude any part of Travancore from the operation of the law. Thus means is afforded for granting concessions in favour of persons residing in places, where the use of fire-arms is absolutely necessary for protection from wild beasts. I beg to move that the principle of the Bill may be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Mr. Kuruvila.—I submit there are several people in the State, who live entirely by hunting. A vast portion of the State has been reserved as forests and I have heard that even reaping the adjacent cultivated cherikals is attended with serious risk from wild animals. Further, the fire-arms actually used are not of the military pattern. Primitive fire-arms locally made by our blacksmiths are all that are generally used, except by the European Planters or their local friends.

Under these circumstances, I humbly beg that the possession of Arms for lawful purposes and the *bona fide* local manufacture of primitive fire-arms of a non-military pattern, may not be interdicted. The import by sea of all fire-arms should however be positively prohibited or carefully controlled. The import of small percussion caps and the preparation of gunpowder for sporting and for festivals and for other lawful purposes, should also continue to be controlled as at present. In

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other words the exemption of Section 24 (a) may be embodied in the Bill in the above directions.

Mr. Raman Tampi.—I approve generally of the principle of the Bill. The necessity for an enactment of this kind cannot be doubted. I only beg to offer a few remarks in addition to those so aptly said by my friend Mr. Kuruvila. Only about one-third of the habitable area of the State is, as a matter of fact, inhabited and most of these places fit for agriculture are either Punja or Cherikal lands. Here it is absolutely necessary for the ryots to use their arms, at least for the purposes of keeping away the wild beasts and birds; not to speak of the necessity of sometimes being fore-armed against the possible depradations of dacoits. I should therefore strongly support my friend's views that the Sections, which relate to the manufacture, use or possession of fire-arms, have to be amended a good deal or dropped altogether. Instead of Section 24, under which Government have power to exempt any person from the operation of any prohibition, I should suggest that a Section be put in by which Government may take power to restrict the use of fire-arms, so as to bring in any class of persons within the prohibition.

With these observations I approve of the general principle of the Bill.

President.—I think these details may be left to the Select Committee to consider.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Kesava Pillai proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Mr. Padmanabha Iyer, Mr. Vieyra, Mr. Udaya Varma Raja, Mr. Kuruvila and the Mover, to report within two months.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council adjourned at 4-50 P. M.

P. RAJAGOPLA CHARI,
President.

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